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## A ROBIN, A NEST AND A MOUTH



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### Chapter 1 by Rix Quill

Old Albert Whacky suffered badly with asthma. Hawking and gurgling sounds stabbed the air around him twenty-four seven. Wheezing, coughing and runny nose were his lasting traits and a trail of slightly moist tissues could always be found wherever he went.

But today he was silent. No runny nose, no struggles to breathe. Peace.

The sun rose extra-hot this morning and Albert had ventured cautiously into the back garden with the aid of two hiking sticks - telescopic. He plonked himself down into an ancient wooden chair that always remained outdoors in all seasons and had weathered considerably; rather like Albert. Both man and chair bonded and blended so well in the garden you would think they were one.

Albert dozed in his Winchester chair and dozed in the warming sun. And by eleven, he was still dozing. Just a slight murmur could be heard from his open mouth.

A cheeky and confident robin landed on Albert's knee and looked up at the unshaven face but was not frightened by what he saw there; a gaping hole, sheltered from the north wind and not

facing directly into the big light in the sky. Slowly with minute flurries of its wings, the robin approached the face and perched. The bird looked inside Albert's cavernous hole and flew off.

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Within a minute, the creature returned, twig in mouth, and proceeded to affix the item well within Albert's gob. Likewise, the robin continued, increasing the frequency of his visits until a complete nest of twigs, dried grasses, fur, scraps of cotton and a slip of aluminium foil clogged Albert's mouth, fitting so tightly you'd think he'd coughed up his breakfast.

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